



Department of Social and Family Affairs

MINISTER APPROVES €9 MILLION FOR MARRIAGE, CHILD AND BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING SERVICES

The Minister for Social Affairs, Séamus Brennan T.D., has approved funding of €9 million to over 540 voluntary and community groups nationwide providing a wide range of marriage, child and bereavement counselling services and supports.

This year's allocation of €9 million was increased by over €750,000 on 2005 funding levels and means that established groups will receive improved support. More than 45 groups will receive grants in excess of €40,000. The grants are for marriage counselling, marriage preparation, child counselling and bereavement counselling supports.

Minister Brennan said: "These grants demonstrate the Government's continued commitment to offering practical assistance to help families and individuals at particularly stressful periods in their lives. The voluntary and community groups receiving funding are helping to enhance family stability and to assist families by providing a safety valve for people - men, women and children - who need support and counselling in coping at times of stress and trauma".

(County-by-county breakdown of grants is attached).

Marriage counselling accounts for 58% of this year's funding, bereavement counselling and support 18%, child counselling 14%, and marriage preparation 10%. This year's additional funding provides for a 9% increase in marriage, child and bereavement counselling and a 3% increase in marriage preparation courses.

The policy objectives, which inform funding allocations, are continued investment in the established major providers of services so that they can consolidate their lead role in the provision of high quality counselling services, the provision of a regional network of accessible support by investment in significant providers of services in key catchment areas throughout the country and additional support for organisations providing services in disadvantaged communities.

Continued investment is provided in the allocation of grants for established major providers of services including: ACCORD Headquarters, Maynooth granted over €1m; ACCORD Dublin, which is responsible for 10 - 12 centres serving the Dublin/Wicklow



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region, granted €660,000; MRCS, Dublin granted €540,000 and Cork Marriage Counselling Centre granted €360,000.

The Family Support Agency administers the scheme of grants.

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County-by-county breakdown of grants: _

Carlow:	€81,550
Cavan:	€72,300
Clare:	€103,720
Cork:	€735,250
Donegal:	€172,200
Dublin:	€3,757,210
Galway:	€297,250
Kerry:	€291,200
Kildare:	€1,164,770
Kilkenny:	€34,100
Laois:	€40,400
Leitrim:	€29,850
Limerick:	€188,150
Longford:	€41,100
Louth :	€473,550
Mayo:	€384,950
Meath:	€118,410
Monaghan:	€78,800
Offaly :	€53,400
Roscommon:	€314,700
Sligo:	€93,200
Tipperary:	€199,448
Waterford:	€209,785
Westmeath:	€70,900
Wexford:	€99,900
Wicklow:	€93,875
TOTAL:	€9,199,968